

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached four (4) sheets of drawings are submitted in response to the objection to the drawings. Sheet 1 replaces original sheet 1, and includes FIG. 1. Sheet 2 replaces original sheet 2, and includes FIG. 2. Sheet 3 replaces original sheets 3-4, and includes FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. Sheet 4 replaces original sheet 5, and includes FIG. 5. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 19-41 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 42-66 are added by this amendment. Claims 42-66 remain in the application.

DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to as being informal. Applicants have submitted replacement (formal) drawings with this response. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 19-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have cancelled claim 19-41, without prejudice, and added claims 42-66. Therefore, the rejection to Claims 19-41 is rendered moot. Applicants assert that new claims 42-66 comply with 35 U.S.C. 112.

New Claim 42 recites:

providing an instant messaging interface for a first instant messaging application,
wherein the instant messaging interface for the first instant messaging
application includes a first region and a second region;
providing an instant messaging interface for a second instant messaging application,
wherein the instant messaging interface for the second instant messaging
application includes a third region and a fourth region;
wherein all content entered in the second region is displayed in substantially real-time
in the fourth region;
wherein all content entered in the fourth region is displayed in substantially real-time
in the second region;

wherein content in the first region is not automatically displayed in the instant messaging interface for the second instant messaging application;

Support for these limitations is clearly present in the specification, at least at page 6, lines 10-18 and in FIG. 1. For example, FIG. 1 shows conversation windows in which all content entered in one conversation window is displayed in substantially real-time within the other conversation window. Content entered in other windows of one instant messaging application may be displayed in substantially real-time within one or more windows of another instant messaging application.

FIG. 1 also depicts many types of environment specific windows. For at least one of the environment specific windows content is not automatically displayed in the instant messaging interface for the other instant messaging application. For example, content in the search window of one instant messaging interface is not automatically displayed in the instant messaging interface for the other instant messaging application. This may be true for other windows in an instant messaging interface. For example, other, though not necessarily all, environment specific windows may have this property. Many other types of environment specific windows are possible than those depicted in FIG. 1.

New Claim 42 recites, in part:

receiving user input that selects a portion of content displayed within the first region
of the instant messaging interface of the first instant messaging application;
in response to said receiving, storing data that reflects said selected portion of content;
and
without affecting content displayed in said second and fourth regions, causing
information to be displayed in said third region based on said stored data,

wherein said data displayed in said third region is related to said portion of content selected in said first region.

Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification at least at page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 21 and in Figs. 2-3. In particular, numerous examples are provided of receiving user input that selects a portion of content displayed within the first region. For example, the Specification discloses that user input is received of some portion of one of the environment specific windows. Further, the Specification discloses that responsive to receiving the user input, data that reflects said selected portion of content is stored. The Specification discloses that the saved data is not necessarily the content that is selected, but that it reflects the selected content. Moreover, the Specification discloses that information is caused to be displayed in the third region based on the stored data. For example, the Specification discloses that user A can share a wish list with user B.

As illustrated in the Figures, the content displayed in the second and fourth regions is not affected by the step of causing the information to be displayed in the third region. For example, the Figures show that when user A's instant messaging application causes information to be displayed in user B's environment specific window 108, content displayed in the conversation windows of user A and user B is not affected.

Claims 26 and 35 were rejected with respect to limitations related to online purchasing information. New Claims 49 and 61 contain similar limitations.

Claim 49 recites:

wherein the step of storing data that reflects said selected portion of content
comprises storing data that indicates online purchasing information related to
the selected portion of content.

Support for Claim 49 is in the Specification at least at page 9, line 22 – page 10, line 3:

For example, the wish list may be integrated with an e-commerce or
shopping web site. The items in the wish list may be links to actual items
available for sale. The user may place the items in a virtual shopping cart
and make purchases.

Applicants assert that there is no requirement for exact correspondence between
language in the specification and language in the claims, and that the above passage supports
the claim language.

For the foregoing reasons, new Claims 42-66 comply with the written description
requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112. Furthermore, no new matter has been added as a result of the
newly added claims.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 19-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Varma et al.
(U.S. Patent No. 6,564,246). The rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of the claims,
without prejudice.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 42-66 have been added. Support for these claims is discussed in the response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection. No new matter has been added.

Claim 42 recites, in part:

wherein content in the first region is not automatically displayed in the instant messaging interface for the second instant messaging application;
receiving user input that selects a portion of content displayed within the first region of the instant messaging interface of the first instant messaging application;
in response to said receiving, storing data that reflects said selected portion of content;
and
without affecting content displayed in said second and fourth regions, causing information to be displayed in said third region based on said stored data, wherein said data displayed in said third region is related to said portion of content selected in said first region.

Varma does not disclose the above claim limitations. FIG. 2 illustrates that client 12 has an independent view 123 (associated with region 103 of shared workspace 10) and a shared view 123 based on region 101. If client 12 selects an area of the independent view 123, then the display of the other clients will not affected because their view does not include region 103. For client 12 to affect the display of another client, client 12 would need to modify a region currently being displayed by another client, such as region 101 in the shared workspace 10. However, region 101 is associated with the shared view (121, 141, 161). Thus, if client 12 selects a portion of content in shared view 121, client 12 is not selecting a portion of a region for which content is not automatically shared with a second instant messaging application, as claimed.

Therefore, Varma does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 42.

Independent Claims 54 and 66 comprise similar limitations to those discussed of Claim 42. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable based on their incorporation of limitations from the Independent claims, as well as additional limitations that distinguish over cited art.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

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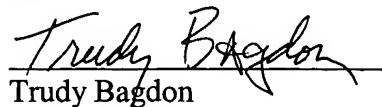
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on 10/28/05

by 
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